

IN THE CLAIMS:

121  
15. (New) A cover assembly for a microplate, said assembly comprising:

a layer of compressible material shaped and dimensioned to removably seal a plurality of a microplate's well openings;

a pressure plate disposed on said layer of material for dispersing a compressive force in a generally uniform manner across said layer; and

a cover having a top and first and second sides, said sides extending downwardly from the outer edges of said top and including ledges that extend beneath the bottom edges of said microplate, said top bowing upwardly from a central portion thereof to said sides, whereby said top provides a resilient force that bears downwardly on said pressure plate and upwardly on the bottom edges of said microplate

Rule 126  
15  
16. (New) The assembly of claim 15 including longitudinal tabs, extending from said first and second sides, whereby said cover may be disengaged from, or engaged with said microplate by displacing said tabs laterally outwardly or inwardly to move said ledges away from or beneath said bottom edges of said microplate.

Sub 117  
160  
17. (New) The assembly of claim 15 including:

a plurality of vertical tabs extending downward from said ledges; and

a plurality of apertures in said cover that register with said tabs, whereby a plurality of the cover assemblies can be stacked, with the vertical tabs on a cover extending into the apertures of a cover assembly that is disposed beneath.